

REMARKS:

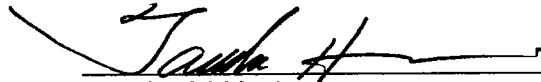
Status of the Claims

Currently, claims 22-37 are pending in the application. Claims 38-48 have been cancelled. Claim 22 is an independent claim.

Applicants thank Examiner Desir for the courtesy of the personal interview held on February 4, 2009 and the telephonic interview held on February 12, 2009. The interview summary mailed February 18, 2009 indicates that the Examiner has withdrawn the rejection applied to claim 22 but maintains the rejection to claim 47. In the above amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 47 and 48. Applicants have also cancelled claims 43-46, which had previously been withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, Applicants believe that the present application is in the condition for allowance. Applicants will file a continuation application for claims 47 and 48.

Respectfully submitted,

March 6, 2009
Date


Tadashi Horie
(Reg. No. 40,437)